

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2582

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

USINCSO QUARRY HTS

UNCLAS BOGOTA 3923

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, CO

SUBJECT: POST-ELECTION ROUNDUP

USCINCSO FOR J-2

1. FINAL RESIDENTIAL VOTE TOTALS SHOW THAT LOPEZ LEAD OVER GOMEZ
CONTINUED TO GROW AND IS NOW OVER 1,100,000. THE NATIONAL CIVIL
REGISTRY HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING FIGURES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL VOTE,

WHICH IT SAYS REFLECT THE TABULATION OF ALL VOTES CAST:

LOPEZ (LIBERAL) 2,653,018

GOMEZ (CONSERVATIVE) 1,506,374

MRS. MORENO (ANAPO) 472,934

ECHEVERRI (UNO) 130,296

DUARTE (CD) 6,351

TOTAL 4,780,108 (INCLUDING NULL AND VOID)

2. THE ABSTENTION RATE WAS EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH FOR A PRESIDENTIAL
RACE, AND THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL FACEOFF BY LIBERALS AND
CONSERVATIVES IN TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS. IF, FOR PURPOSES OF CONSISTENCY,
WE USE THE SAME STATISTICAL BASE AS IN PAST ELECTIONS, THE
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ABSTENTION RATE WAS ABOUT FIFTY-THREE PERCENT (THEORETICAL VOTER

POTENTIAL OF 10,000,000). THE REAL VOTER POTENTIAL WAS CLOSER TO 8,000,000, GIVING AN ABSTENTION RATE OF FORTY PER CENT.

3. WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE CONGRESIONAL VOTE TOTALS, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS, DUE TO THE SLOW PACE AT WHICH THE RECOUNT IS PROCEEDING. NEVERTHELESS, THE NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRY NOW PROJECTS AN OVERALL CONGRESSIONAL VOTE SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN THAT FOR PRESIDENT, POSSIBLY NOT MORE THAN 4,200,000 VOTES.

4. UNOFFICIAL TABULATION OF CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS MADE BY THE LIBERAL PARTY SHOWS FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN OF SEATS:

SENATE	CHANBER OF REPRESENTATIVES	
LIBERALS	65	118
CONSERVATIVES	37	67
ANAPO	8	14
UNO	2	3
	112	199

FOREGOING IS NOT TO BE TAKEN AS FINAL RESULT, AS A NUMBER OF SEATS REMAIN IN DISPUTE AND DEFINITIVE TABULATIONS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SOME TIME. THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT LIBERALS HAVE AN OVERSHELMING MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS. WE ARE PREPARING A PROFILE OF THE NEW CONGRESS WHICH WE WILL SEND TO WASHINGTON EARLY JUNE.

5. CONVERSATIONS CONTINUE BETWEEN THE TOP ECHELONS OF THE LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES ON THE NATURE OF THE COALITION THAT IS TO EXIST IN THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION. PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ AND CONSERVATIVE PARTY HEAD MARIANO OSPINA ARE REPORTED TO HAVE AGREED ON A LOPEZ CAMPAIGN OFFER THAT WOULD GIVE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, COMPTROLLER GENERAL AND MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT TO THE CONSERVATIVES. THESE THREE FUNCTIONARIES OVERSEE THE ENTIRE BUREAUCRACY IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER AND LOPEZ OFFER IS DESIGNED TO GUARANTEE TO CONSERVATIVES ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR THEIR INTERESTS DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

6. LIBERAL PARTY DIRECTOR JULIO CESAR TURBAY AND CONSERVATIVE DIRECTORATE PRESIDENT HUMBERTO GONZALEZ NARVAEZ MET ON MAY 3 TO ESTABLISH TWO BIPARTISAN COMMISSIONS: ONE TO RECOMMEND REFORMS UNCLASSIFIED

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TO THE ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEMS AND ANOTHER TO STUDY MEANS TO IMPROVE THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMPTROLLERS OFFICE AND THAT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN ORDER TO PREVENT CORRUPTION AT THE MIDDLE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT.

7. PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED THE MAKUP OF HIS CABINET AND APPARENTLY WILL NOT DO SO FOR SOME TIME, NOR DOES HE PLAN TO ESTABLISH A FORMAL LIAISON MECHANISM WITH THE PRESENT

ADMINISTRATION UNTIL THE ELECTORAL COURT DELIVERS TO HIM A CERTIFICATION THAT HE HAS BEEN ELECTED.

8. ACCORDING TO AN EL TIEMPO STORY OF MAY 5, LOPEZ HAS APPOINTED RODRIGO BOTERO TO BEGIN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE. EL TIEMPO ALSO STATES THAT LOPEZ HAS AUTHORIZED ONLY THREE PERSONS TO MAKE CONTACTS IN HIS NAME: BOTERO, SENATOR INDALECIO LIEVANO AGUIRRE AND VIRGILIO BARCO.

9. OSPINA AND HIS WIFE, DONA BERTHA, LEFT MAY 4, FOR AN EXTENDED VACATION IN THE UNITED STATES. ON THEIR DEPARTURE THE EX-PRESIDENT MADE A FEW PERFUNCTORY REPLIES TO REPORTERS QUESTIONS AND ONA BERTHA HAD NOTHING TO SAY. TURBAY GOES OFF ON MAY 11 FOR A LONG VACATION TRIP ABROAD.
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